

REMARKS

Claims 35, 36, and 43-85 are pending in this application. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I Abstract and Drawings

The Examiner objects to the abstract of the disclosure because it is allegedly more than one paragraph. Furthermore, the Examiner objects to the drawings because they allegedly fail to show necessary textual labels "of features or figures in FIG. 1A." These objections are respectfully traversed.

The Examiner is hereby advised that both of these objections have already been raised in the Office action of May 4, 2005, and, responsive thereto, an amended abstract of the disclosure and replacement drawing were submitted. (According to the PAIR system, both of these submissions were entered on September 12, 2005). Acknowledgment of receipt of the amendment to the abstract of the disclosure and replacement drawing is respectfully sought. It is respectfully submitted that the entered amendment to the abstract of the disclosure and replacement drawing obviate the objections.

Withdrawal of the objections to the abstract of the disclosure and drawings is respectfully requested.

II Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §102

Claims 35, 36, and 43-85 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,842,195 to Peters. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Peters discloses a survey authoring mechanism that enables construction of a survey questionnaire that can be e-mailed to a plurality of respondent users and a collating mechanism

that can receive responses to the survey from the users and load a database in accordance with the responses. This alleviates the need for manually reading each e-mail response to the questionnaire and collating the responses by hand.

However, Peters does not disclose the subject matter of Claim 35. For example, Peters fails to disclose a client interface system in which a survey taker may indicate at least “a defined question for the survey,” “a such set of subjects to be evaluated,” “a such set of natural-language terms to be rated as to relevancy to each subject,” “a participant audience” and “a time frame for response.” In asserting that this reference discloses these features, the Examiner points to Peters, at col. 12, lines 38-50, but these portions of the text merely disclose the use of a “Survey Author Module” screen used by a survey author to create a new survey document. It is respectfully submitted that this “Survey Author Module” screen used by a survey author to create a new survey document is not the same as a client interface system in which a survey taker may indicate at least a defined question for the survey, a such set of subjects to be evaluated, a such set of natural-language terms to be rated as to relevancy to each subject, a participant audience and a time frame for response, as recited in Claim 35.

Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that Peters also fails to disclose a server computer system arranged to provide survey processing comprising “compiling a survey file and survey document in accordance with survey taker input”. The Examiner refers to Peters, at col. 12, lines 38-50 and col. 19, lines 17-19, for these features, but these portions of the cited reference merely refer again to the “Survey Author Module” screen and to the ability of the survey author to send a survey to a target audience. It is respectfully submitted that Peters fails to disclose the feature of compiling a survey file and survey document in accordance with survey taker input, as recited in Claim 35.

Claim 36, which is dependent on Claim 35, requires displaying survey results at a publicized URL. In rejecting this claim, the Examiner refers to Peters, at col. 1, lines 15-25. However, this portion of the cited reference merely provides background information on how the Internet

removes time and space barriers. It is respectfully submitted that Peters fails to disclose the feature of displaying survey results at a publicized URL, as recited in Claim 36.

Because Peters fails to disclose one or more feature recited in Claims 35 and 36, this reference would not have anticipated the subject matter of Claims 35 and 36.

Additionally, Peters does not disclose the subject matter of Claim 43. For example, Peters fails to disclose an "Internet client-server system for assisting at least one group of users having at least one common goal to capture and search, in a single database, offered knowledge, relevant to such at least one common goal, of a plurality of such users for the benefit of at least one of such users." The Examiner refers to Peters, at col. 6, lines 10-23, for these features, but this portion of the text merely refers to constructing a survey such that a question is presented only if the respondent answered a previous question in a certain way. The Examiner also refers to Peters, Figure 13, but this figure shows a functional diagram of a survey system including the steps involved in creating a survey, emailing it to remote users, creating a database, receiving responses to the survey, collating the responses, and updating the database with answers to the survey, etc. It is respectfully submitted that these portions of Peters do not have any apparent relevance to the subject matter of claim 43.

Furthermore, Peters does not disclose the feature of "individually capturing for such database at least one experience of at least some of such plurality". In this case, "plurality" has antecedent basis to the "plurality of users" set forth in the preamble, such users "having at least one common goal to capture and search, in a single database, offered knowledge, relevant to such at least one common goal." The Examiner refers to Peters, Figure 13, for this feature, but this refers again to the functional diagram of a survey system. In particular, there is no disclosure there (or anywhere else in Peters) regarding capturing any experiences of any users having at least one common goal to capture and search, in a single database, offered knowledge, relevant to such at least one common goal.

In addition, Peters does not disclose “storing in such database such experience”. The Examiner refers to Peters, at col. 21, lines 59-67, but this section of the text refers again to a description of the functional diagram of a survey system. It is respectfully submitted that the cited reference does not disclose storing in such database such experience, as recited in Claim 43.

Even further, Peters fails to disclose the feature of “user searching, using at least one natural language word, to select at least one desired kind of stored experience”. In asserting that this reference teaches this feature, the Examiner refers to Peters, at col. 3, lines 60-67, but this portion of the cited reference instead merely discusses using a database to store responses to survey questions. It is respectfully submitted that there is no disclosure anywhere in Peters for user searching, using natural language words. A natural language refers to a human written or spoken language. The only type of database that Peters refers to is a relational database which uses a non-natural (artificial) language such as SQL to perform queries. There is no disclosure whatsoever in Peters for using natural language words to query any database. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Peters fails to disclose user searching, using at least one natural language word, to select at least one desired kind of stored experience, as recited in Claim 43.

Because Peters fails to disclose one or more features recited in independent Claim 43, this reference would not have anticipated the subject matter of independent Claim 43. Since Claims 44-63 depend from Claim 43, either directly or indirectly, these claims are likewise patentable over the cited reference.

It is respectfully submitted that Peters also fails to disclose one or more feature required by Claims 44-63. For example, Claim 46 requires “automatically rewarding assisting users for website management assistance.” The portion of Peters relied upon by the Examiner, namely, Peters, at col. 12, lines 10-20, merely discusses survey documentation preparation means and fails to mention anything regarding automatically rewarding assisting users for website management assistance, as required by Claim 46. In point of fact, nothing in the entire Peters reference mentions anything about rewarding any user for any purpose. As another example, Peters fails to disclose the subject matter of Claim 51, which sets forth the requirements that

“such goal is sales-oriented”, “such group of users comprises sales personnel” and “those receiving such benefit comprise sales personnel”. And yet as another example, Peters fails to disclose the subject matter of Claim 54, which sets forth the requirements of, *inter alia*, “automatically accumulating assigned points for each such experience contribution by each such at least one user,” “automatically reporting such points accumulate for each such experience contribution,” “defining at least one criteria for awarding prizes based on such accumulated points,” and “automatically awarding prizes to such at least one user with accumulated points meeting such at least one criteria.” It is respectfully submitted that Peters discloses none of these features.

The Examiner states that Claims 64-85 “have the same subject matter as of claims above and essentially [are] rejected for the same reasons as discussed above.” However, it is to be noted that the Examiner has failed to abide by the requirements of MPEP §2181 with respect to these claims which are written in means-plus-function format. MPEP §2181 notes that under 35 USC §112, Sixth Paragraph, “an element in a claim for a combination may be expressed as a means or step for performing a specified function without the recital of structure, material, or acts in support thereof, and such claim shall be construed to cover the corresponding structure, material, or acts described in the specification and equivalents thereof.” MPEP §2181 requires that the Examiner interpret a “means or step plus function” limitation in a claim as limited to the corresponding structure, materials or acts described in the specification.

Had the Examiner abided by the requirements of MPEP §2181 it would have been clear, for example, that the “interface means for user-searching, using at least one natural word” recited in Claim 64 does not refer to querying a relational database in a computer language but rather using a natural language word to perform such user search.

It is respectfully submitted that Claims 64-85 have not been properly examined, and the rejection of these claims must be withdrawn.

III. Conclusion

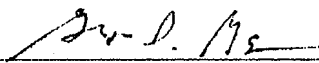
In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

If there are any fees incurred by this Amendment Letter, please deduct them from our Deposit Account No. 50-1887.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

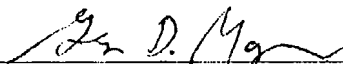
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted, via facsimile, to the Patent and Trademark Office fax number (571)-273-8300 on March 29, 2006.

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George D. Morgan